

CLAIMS

1. A method for monitoring a control channel in a telecommunication system including an access network and an access terminal, comprising:
 - 2 transmitting, at said access network, a packet directed to said access terminal, said packet being transmitted during a first time period;
 - 4 transmitting, at said access network, a message, said message being transmitted during said first time period;
 - 6 transmitting, at said access network, a set of overhead parameters, said set of overhead parameters being transmitted during a second time period; and
 - 10 monitoring at said access terminal said control channel based on a relationship between said message and a previous message.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said message is linked to said set of overhead parameters.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said monitoring further includes:
 - 2 monitoring said control channel only during said first time period if said message indicates that said set of overhead parameters is up to date.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
 - 2 said access terminal entering a sleep mode at the end of said first time period if said message matches said previous message.
5. The method of claim 3, wherein said monitoring step further includes:
 - 2 monitoring said control channel until said message matches said previous message, if said message indicates that said set of overhead parameters is not up to date.
6. A system for monitoring a control channel in a communication system, comprising:
 - 2 an access network configured to transmit a packet, directed to an access terminal, and a message during a first time period, said access network
 - 4

further configured to transmit a set of overhead parameters during a second
6 time period; and

an access terminal configured to monitor said control channel
8 based on a relationship between said message and a previous message.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein said message is linked to said set of
2 overhead parameters.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein said access terminal is further configured
2 to monitor said control channel only during said first time period if said message
indicates that said set of overhead parameters is up to date.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein said access terminal is further configured
2 to enter a sleep mode at the end of said first time period if said message
matches said previous message.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein said access terminal is further configured
2 to monitor said control channel until said message matches said previous
message, if said message indicates that said set of overhead parameters is not
4 up to date.

11. A method for monitoring a control channel in a telecommunication
2 system including an access network and an access terminal, comprising:

receiving, at said access terminal, a packet directed to said
4 access terminal during a first time period;

receiving, at said access terminal, a message during said first time
6 period; and

monitoring, at said access terminal, said control channel to receive
8 a set of overhead parameters based on a relationship between said message
and a previous message.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said message is linked to said set of
2 overhead parameters.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said monitoring further includes:

2 monitoring said control channel only during said first time period, if
said message indicates that said set of overhead parameters is up to date.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

2 said access terminal entering a sleep mode at the end of said first
time period, if said message matches said previous message.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein said monitoring further includes:

2 monitoring said control channel until said message matches said
previous message, if said message indicates that said set of overhead
4 parameters is not up to date.

16. An access terminal for monitoring a control channel in a

2 telecommunication system, comprising:

4 means for receiving a packet directed to said access terminal
during a first time period;

6 means for receiving a message during said first time period; and

6 means for monitoring said control channel to receive a set of
overhead parameters based on a relationship between said message and a
8 previous message.

17. The access terminal of claim 16, wherein said message is linked to said

2 set of overhead parameters.

18. The access terminal of claim 17, wherein said means for monitoring

2 further includes:

4 means for monitoring said control channel only during said first
time period, if said message indicates that said set of overhead parameters is
up to date.

19. The access terminal of claim 18, wherein said means for monitoring

2 further includes:

means for entering a sleep mode at the end of said first time

4 period, if said message matches said previous message.

20. The access network of claim 18, wherein said means for monitoring

2 further includes:

means for monitoring said control channel until said message

4 matches said previous message, if said message indicates that said set of
overhead parameters is not up to date.

21. A computer readable medium embodying a method for monitoring a

2 control channel in a telecommunication system, said method comprising:

receiving a packet directed to an access terminal during a first

4 time period;

receiving a message during said first time period; and

6 monitoring said control channel to receive a set of overhead
parameters based on a relationship between said message and a previous
8 message.

22. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein said message is

2 linked to said set of overhead parameters.

23. The computer readable medium of claim 22 wherein said monitoring

2 further includes:

monitoring said control channel only during said first time period, if

4 said message indicates that said set of overhead parameters is up to date.

24. The computer readable medium of claim 23 further embodying:

2 entering a sleep mode at the end of said first time period, if said message
matches said previous message.

25. The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein said monitoring

2 further includes:

monitoring said control channel until said message matches said
4 previous message, if said message indicates that said set of overhead
parameters is not up to date.

26. An access network for transmitting control channel information in a
2 telecommunication system, comprising:

means for transmitting a packet directed to an access terminal
4 during a first time period;
means for transmitting a message during said first time period;
6 and
means for transmitting a set of overhead parameters during a
8 second time period.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein said message is linked to said set of
2 overhead parameters.

28. A method for transmitting control channel information in a
2 telecommunication system, comprising:
transmitting a packet directed to an access terminal during a first
4 time period;
transmitting a message during said first time period; and
6 transmitting a set of overhead parameters during a second time
period.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said message is linked to said set of
2 overhead parameters.

30. A computer readable medium embodying a method for transmitting
2 control channel information in a telecommunication system, said method
comprising:

4 transmitting a packet directed to an access terminal during a first
time period;
6 transmitting a message during said first time period; and

transmitting a set of overhead parameters during a second time
8 period.

31. The computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein said message is
2 linked to said set of overhead parameters.

32. An access terminal for monitoring a control channel in a
2 telecommunication system, comprising:

a receiver unit configured to receive:

4 a packet directed to said access terminal during a first time period;
and

6 a message during said first time period; and

8 a controller configured to instruct said receiver unit whether to
receive a set of overhead parameters based on a relationship between said
message and a previous message.

33. An access network for transmitting control channel information in a
2 telecommunication system, comprising:

a transmitter unit configured to transmit:

4 a packet directed to an access terminal during a first time period;
and

6 a message during said first time period; and

8 a controller configured to instruct said transmitter unit to transmit a
set of overhead parameters during a second time period.